

What is claimed is:

1. A method for securing an access provider, the method comprising:
2 monitoring communications with at least one access provider for a partially-
3 completed connection transaction; and
4 terminating the partially-completed connection transaction when the partially-
5 completed connection transaction remains in existence for a period of time that exceeds a
6 threshold period of time.

1 2. The method as in claim 1, wherein the monitoring comprises:
3 detecting partially-completed connection transactions initiated by an access requestor;
4 and
5 measuring the period of time that a partially-completed connection transaction
remains in existence.

1 3. The method as in claim 2, wherein the monitoring further comprises
2 comparing the period of time with the threshold period of time.

1 4. The method as in claim 1, wherein the monitoring comprises detecting
2 partially-completed connection transactions that occur when an access requestor initiates a
3 connection transaction and the access requestor subsequently fails to send a reply.

1 5. The method as in claim 4, wherein the monitoring comprises detecting
2 partially-completed connection transactions that occur when an access requestor initiates a
3 connection transaction based on a return address that differs from an actual return address of
4 the access requestor.

1 6. The method as in claim 5, wherein the monitoring comprises detecting
2 partially-completed connection transactions wherein the return address is an Internet protocol
3 address that differs from the actual return address of the access requestor.

1 7. The method as in claim 1, wherein the monitoring comprises monitoring
2 communications with the at least one access provider based on TCP communications for
3 partially-completed connection transactions.

1 8. The method as in claim 7, wherein the monitoring comprises monitoring a
2 process whereby an access requestor sends a SYN request and the at least one access
3 provider sends a SYN acknowledgement.

1 9. The method as in claim 1, wherein the monitoring comprises monitoring
2 communications with a plurality of access providers for partially-completed connection
3 transactions.

1 10. The method as in claim 1, wherein the terminating comprises resetting a
2 communication port located on the at least one access provider.

1 11. The method as in claim 1, wherein the threshold period of time is configurable
2 such that the terminating comprises terminating the partially-completed connection
3 transaction when the partially-completed connection transaction remains in existence for a
4 period of time that exceeds a configurable threshold period of time.

1 12. The method as in claim 2, wherein the access requestor is a client and the
2 access provider is a host such that the monitoring comprises detecting partially-completed
3 connection transactions between at least one client and at least one host.

1 13. The method as in claim 2, wherein the access requestor is a client and the
2 access provider is a host such that the monitoring comprises detecting partially-completed
3 connection transactions between at least one client and a plurality of hosts.

1 14. The method as in claim 2, wherein the access requestor is a client and the
2 access provider is a host such that the monitoring comprises detecting partially-completed
3 connection transactions between a plurality of clients and at least one host.

1 15. A system for securing an access provider, comprising:
2 means for monitoring communications with at least one access provider for a
3 partially-completed connection transaction; and

4 means for terminating the partially-completed connection transaction when the
5 partially-completed connection transaction remains in existence for a period of time that
6 exceeds a threshold period of time.

1 16. The system of claim 15, wherein the means for monitoring comprises:
2 means for detecting partially-completed connection transactions initiated by an access
3 requestor;
4 means for measuring the period of time that a partially-completed connection
5 transaction remains in existence; and
6 means for comparing the period of time with the threshold period of time.

1 17. The system of claim 15, wherein the means for monitoring comprises means
2 for detecting partially-completed connection transactions that occur when an access requestor
3 initiates a connection transaction and the access requestor subsequently fails to send a reply.

1 18. The system of claim 17, wherein the means for monitoring comprises means
2 for detecting partially-completed connection transactions that occur when an access requestor
3 initiates a connection transaction based on a return address that differs from an actual return
4 address of the access requestor.

1 19. The system of claim 15, wherein the means for monitoring comprises means
2 for monitoring communications with the at least one access provider based on TCP
3 communications for partially-completed connection transactions whereby an access requestor
4 sends a SYN request and the at least one access provider sends a SYN acknowledgement.

1 20. The system of claim 16, wherein the access requestor is a client and the access
2 provider is a host such that the means for monitoring comprises means for detecting partially-
3 completed connection transactions between at least one client and at least one host.

1 21. A system for securing an access provider, comprising:
2 a monitoring component that is structured and arranged to monitor communications
3 with at least one access provider for a partially-completed connection transaction; and

4 a terminating component that is structured and arranged to terminate the partially-
5 completed connection transaction when the partially-completed connection transaction
6 remains in existence for a period of time that exceeds a threshold period of time.

1 22. The system of claim 21, wherein the monitoring component comprises:
2 a detection component that is structured and arranged to detect partially-completed
3 connection transactions initiated by an access requestor; and
4 a measuring component that is structured and arranged to measure the period of time
5 that a partially-completed connection transaction remains in existence.

1 23. The system of claim 22, wherein the monitoring component further comprises
2 a comparing component that is structured and arranged to compare the period of time with
3 the threshold period of time.

1 24. The system of claim 21, wherein the monitoring component comprises a
2 detection component that is structured and arranged to detect partially-completed connection
3 transactions that occur when an access requestor initiates a connection transaction and the
4 access requestor subsequently fails to send a reply.

1 25. The system of claim 24, wherein the monitoring component comprises a
2 detection component that is structured and arranged to detect partially-completed connection
3 transactions that occur when an access requestor initiates a connection transaction based on a
4 return address that differs from an actual return address of the access requestor.

1 26. The system of claim 25, wherein the monitoring component comprises a
2 detection component that is structured and arranged to detect partially-completed connection
3 transactions wherein the return address is an Internet protocol address that differs from the
4 actual return address of the access requestor.

1 27. The system of claim 21, wherein the monitoring component is structured and
2 arranged to monitor communications with the at least one access provider based on TCP
3 communications for partially-completed connection transactions.

1 28. The system of claim 27, wherein the monitoring component is structured and
2 arranged to monitor a process whereby an access requestor sends a SYN request and the at
3 least one access provider sends a SYN acknowledgement.

1 29. The system of claim 21, wherein the monitoring component is structured and
2 arranged to monitor communications with a plurality of access providers for partially-
3 completed connection transactions.

1 30. The system of claim 21, wherein the terminating component comprises a reset
2 component that is structured and arranged to reset a communication port located on the at
3 least one access provider.

1 31. The system of claim 21, wherein the threshold period of time is a configurable
2 threshold period of time.

1 32. The system of claim 22, wherein the access requestor is a client and the access
2 provider is a host such that the monitoring component comprises a detection component that
3 is structured and arranged to detect partially-completed connection transactions between at
4 least one client and at least one host.

1 33. The system of claim 22, wherein the access requestor is a client and the access
2 provider is a host such that the monitoring component comprises a detection component that
3 is structured and arranged to detect partially-completed connection transactions between at
4 least one client and a plurality of hosts.

1 34. The system of claim 22, wherein the access requestor is a client and the access
2 provider is a host such that the monitoring component comprises a detection component that
3 is structured and arranged to detect partially-completed connection transactions between a
4 plurality of clients and at least one host.

1 35. The system of claim 21, wherein the monitoring component and the
2 terminating component are included in a switch that receives communications from a host
3 computer system.

1 36. The system of claim 21, wherein the monitoring component and the
2 terminating component are included in a host computer system that receives communications
3 from a switch.